

## Testimony in favor of SB4 and SB 5039

My name is Diane Keefe and I live in Norwalk, CT. Thanks to the members of the Transportation and Environment committees for considering these important pieces of legislation. Speeding the adoption of electric vehicles for light duty state vehicles and for buses is vital to our urban neighborhoods and schools. Passing SB4 will directly result in lower asthma, fewer heart attacks during heat waves in summers and lower rates of all sorts of pulmonary disease resulting from improved air quality in the state of Connecticut.

I learned as an air quality transportation planner in 1980 that diesel particulate emissions go deep into the alveoli of the lungs creating more chronic and acute lung disease. Now that EVs are affordable (on a lifecycle basis) it is time to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuel dependency in the transportation sector. Once the economy converts to more solar and other renewable energy sources paired with storage, the ability additional savings from overnight charging will offset the higher upfront costs. It is vital that the state jumpstart the commercial demand for EVs by committing to these reasonable timelines for conversion to EVs.

I also support the California regulations for medium and heavy-duty vehicles which will result in cleaner air on our highways. Though heavy duty trucks are not allowed on the Merritt Parkway, we need to do more to combat the amount of toxic emissions generated by the daily multiple hour rush hour traffic jams on the Merritt throughout Fairfield County. The GHG emissions from vehicles constitute 37% of CT's greenhouse gas emissions and need to be lowered. We can and must do better for the sake of children and the elderly who live near busy roads and are particularly susceptible to lung disease. Passing SB 5039 is a step in the right direction.